

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

GENERAL NOTES.

THE NAMES FOR TWO GENERA OF AFRICAN ARTIODACTYLA.

The generic name *Koiropotamus* Gray, 1843 (List Spec. Mamm. Brit. Mus., p. xxvii), is usually cited as a *nomen nudum*, but proves on examination to be a valid name. Although printed in one place in the body of the text as "*Choiropotamus*," it appears in the "Systematic List" in the front of the book and in the index as *Koiropotamus* only, and was evidently taken direct from the specific name *koiropotamus* of Desmoulins. As *Choiropotamus*, in the body of the text (p. 185), it has been accepted as a valid name, but has been considered as preoccupied by *Chaeropotamus*, "Cuvier, 1821," which name in reality first dates as a technical name for a fossil pig, not from Cuvier, but from Desmarest, 1822 (Mammalogie, vol. 2, suppl., p. 544). In 1854, when he proposed the substitute name *Potamochærus*, Gray cited in synonymy from his 1843 work the name *Koiropotamus* only, and took *Choiropotamus* Gray from the Annals and Magazine of Natural History for October, 1852. It seems clear that *Choiropotamus* Gray, 1843, is a lapsus for *Koiropotamus* in the same work; that no error of transcription, *lapsus calami*, nor typographical error is evident in the case of *Koiropotamus*, since it was taken direct from the specific name *koiropotamus* of Desmoulins; and that the generic name *Koiropotamus* Gray is not invalidated by the earlier *Chaeropotamus* of Desmarest. The bush pigs would rightly be known, then, by the generic name *Koiropotamus* Gray (type *Sus africanus* Schreber, not Gmelin, = *Sus koiropotamus* Desmoulins).

Another genus of African ungulates that through error lost the name first proposed for it is that currently known as *Bubalis*. It was first named *Alcelaphus* by Blainville in 1816 (Bull. Soc. Philom., p. 75), type *A. buselaphus*. Later names, all with the same type species, are *Bubalis* Goldfuss, 1820 (Handb. Zool., vol. 2, p. 367); *Damalis* Hamilton Smith, 1827 (Griffith's Cuvier, vol. 4, p. 343); *Acronotus* Hamilton Smith, 1827 (l. c., p. 346); and *Bubalus* Ogilby, 1837 (Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1836, p. 139; not of Smith, 1827). The name recently used for the genus, "*Bubalis* Lichtenstein, 1814," is not a valid generic name (see Lyon, Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, vol. 27, p. 228, 1914). With the suppression of *Bubalis* Lichtenstein, it follows that the generic name for the hartebeests, instead of becoming *Bubalis* Goldfuss, should revert to the time honored *Alcelaphus* of Blainville, so long in use before it was erroneously supplanted by *Bubalis*.

—N. Hollister.